

**Mental Health Services Act
Workforce Education and Training**

Licensing and Certification Workgroup

Teleconference on Prescribing Medication

September 21, 2006

1. Present via Telephone.

- a. Basil Bernstein, UCSF Department of Psychiatry
- b. Wendy Desormeaux, Department of Mental Health
- c. Randall Hagar, California Psychiatry Association
- d. Warren Hayes, Department of Mental Health
- e. Connie Lira, California Mental Health Planning Council
- f. Beth Phoenix, UCSF School of Nursing
- g. Gloria Robertson, Office of Statewide Health Planning Development
- h. Inna Tysoe, Department of Mental Health

2. Discussion.

The group discussed considered and discussed promising strategies that would increase the number of individuals who are licensed to prescribe and administer psychotropic medications, and who will work in community public mental health. Various guilds were considered, as well as funding strategies. The following promising strategies were endorsed:

- a. Significant loan forgiveness programs for encouraging psychiatrists to commit to public mental health.
- b. Supporting interdisciplinary team approaches, where primary care physicians, nurses and other allied professionals could provide staff extension to limited psychiatric presence.
- c. Increasing the number of nurses entering psychiatric nurse practitioner programs by financially incentivizing nurses to enter these post-graduate programs, and provide funding to programs to increase their capacity to train nurses.
- d. Exploring the means to develop a mental health track in the nine physician assistant programs here in California. This is an untapped population who can add workforce capacity to public mental health.

The group recognized the need to link financial incentives and programs to developing capacity for underserved populations, such as children and the elderly.

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 3d, from 10:00 until 3:00 P.M. at the California Endowment.